establishment of computerised reservation counters at Chitradurga and Challakere Railway Stations in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Ministry considers this fact as important; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal for provision of computerized reservation facility at Challakere Railway Station has already been sanctioned. As regards, provision of computerized reservation facility at Chitradurga, the proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

Rail Line from Modasa to Shamlaji

2188. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have promised to extend the Railway line from Kapadvanj, Modasa to Shamlaji;

(b) whether Government have given any assurance that within six months the work will executed; and

(c) the progress in this regard till date and by what time it will be fully executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) During inauguration of train services on Kapadvanj-Modasa line, announcement was made by Minister of Railway for extension of Kapadvanj-Modasa line to Shamlaji.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The survey has been completed and the proposal is under process. No target has yet been fixed for completion of this extension.

White Paper on Railway Safety

2189. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recent white paper tabled by the Railway Minister in

Parliament neither accorded fire safety much priority, nor mentioned about enforcement measures to effectively control carrying by passengers of articles like crackers, LPG cylinders and inflammable material, thereby contributing towards accidents like Fire in Frontier Mail on 15th May; and

(b) how Railways proposes to eliminate such criminal negligence endangering lives of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) With the safety measures taken by Indian Railways to prevent and control the cases of fire in trains, the number of fire accidents have come down from 405 during 1960-61 to 16 during 2002-03. The steps taken by Indian Railways in this regard as also the efforts being made have been brought out in the 'White Paper on Safety'. In addition, safety drives are launched from time to time involving Officers, supervisors, Railway Protection Force and also civil authorities to prevent carriage of inflammables including sigris, crackers, kerosene oil, gas cylinders etc. by passengers. Defaulters are posecuted under the Railways Act, 1989.

Baggage checks by RPF at Railway Stations

2190. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many passengers that carry inflammable materials with them concealed in their baggage;

(b) if so, whether RPF is entitled to conduct surprise baggage checks at all major railway stations;

(c) if so, the number of checks conducted by RPF at Delhi stations in the last one year and the details of questionable/objectionable item confiscated by the RPF during these surprise checks; and

(d) how many cases were booked after such checks for questionable/ objectionable items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some passengers do